

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7407

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 0310

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

DUAGPFOR, AO, GB

SUBJ: SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 38734

1. ABSENCE PRESIDENT AND FONMIN (ON SEPARATE VACATIONS), I CALLED FEBRUARY 18 ON SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS REKANGALT TO DISCUSS ANGOLAN SITUATION IN ACCORDANCE REFTTEL.

2. AFTER I HAD REVIEWED POINTS CONTAINED PARAS 2-4 REFTTEL, REKANGALT REPLIED THAT GOG STILL HOPED FOR APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES IT HAD DEFENDED AT LAST OAU CM -- NOTABLY, WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS AND RECONCILIATION OF CONTENDING FORCES WITHIN ANGOLA. GOG HAD CONSISTENTLY MADE ITS VIEWS TO THIS EFFECT KNOWN TO MPLA REGIME, AND REMAINED HOPEFUL THAT NETO WOULD MOVE IN DESIRED DIRECTION.

3. HOWEVER, REKANGALT SAID, GOG CERTAINLY HAD NOTHING AMOUNTING TO ASSURANCES FROM MPLA REGIME. HE IMPLIED THAT GOG RECOGNITION OF NETO GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN UNCONDITIONAL, IN SENSE THAT NO EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE TO EXTRACT PROMISE OF ANY KIND FROM MPLA ON EITHER OF TWO POINTS OF GREATEST CONCERN. NONETHELESS, REKANGALT CONTINUED, GOG REMAINED HOPEFUL THAT NETO HIMSELF WOULD REALIZE IMPORTANCE, IN TERMS BOTH OF HIS DOMESTIC

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SITUATION AND OF AFRICAN OPINION, OF REMOVING FOREIGN

TROOPS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE -- AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IS ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE TO THIS STEP. KEKANGALT ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED NETO COULD IN FACT REACH AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION WITH ELEMENTS OF UNITA AND FNLA, EVEN IF NOT WITH THEIR PRINCIPAL LEADERS.

4. REKANGALT CONCLUDED BY PROMISING THAT GOG WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE ITS VIEWS WIDELY KNOWN BOTH TO MPLA REGIME AND TO OTHER AFRICAN STATES, AND THAT GOG FULLY SHARED US CONCERN OVER CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBANS AND SOVIETS IN CENTRAL AFRICA. REKANGALT ADDED THAT GABONESE UNEASINESS HAD BEEN FURTHER STIMULATED BY RECENT RUMORS THAT CUBAN FORCES MIGHT NEXT BE ENGAGED IN EITHER NAMIBIA OR RHODESIA, ACTIONS WHICH WOULD TRIGGER CONFLAGRATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WE ALL HOPED TO AVOID.

5. IN FINAL NOTE, REKANGALT REITERATED WHAT OTHER GOG LEADERS HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID -- AN EXPRESSION OF REGRET THAT USG HAD BEEN PREVENTED BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION FROM CARRYING OUT ITS INTENDED POLICY IN ANGOLA. MANY AFRICAN STATES, REKANGALT OBSERVED SADLY, ARE INTERPRETING SOVIET-CUBAN SUCCESS IN ANGOLA AS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WHICH COULD AFFECT THEIR OWN SECURITY, AND IT WILL TAKE A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY ARE AGAIN PREPARED TO GIVE GREAT WEIGHT TO REASSURANCES FROM USG.

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ABIDJAN, BANGUI, DAKAR, DAR-ES-SALAAM, KINSHASA, MONROVIA, RABAT, TUNIS, YAOUNDE. STEIGMAN

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